

## COMMUNITY CORNER

# Month of events, talk show to promote domestic violence prevention

By Col. Kevin Brown  
GARRISON COMMANDER

Soldiers are the protectors of the American way of life at home and abroad. Everyday in Iraq and Afghanistan we are making the streets safer for people to enjoy the same freedoms we have. When Soldiers return home, they need to focus on reintegrating with their Families and making sure spouses and children enjoy the same protections we promote around the globe.

The Army has zero-tolerance for Family violence. There are many programs to help Soldiers and Family members understand how to cope without



Col. Brown

Month.

FAP events and classes are another avenue to help build resiliency in our Soldiers and Families. Stress can take its toll on Families, but it can never be

resorting to violence. When stress seems like it may overwhelm a Family, there are people who want to help. Army Community Service's Family Advocacy Program is promoting those programs throughout October as part of Domestic Violence Prevention

an excuse for Family violence. Learning how to deal with the stresses of deployments and everyday Army life builds strong Army Families and lasting relationships.

The Domestic Violence Prevention Month events touch on each of the five areas where we want to build resiliency in our Soldiers and Families – physical, emotional, Family, spiritual and relationships.

The month started with a proclamation signing Oct. 2 at Riley's Conference Center. With the month officially declared, FAP staff will begin its classes by teaching a class just for men – "Handling and Expressing Your Emotions." While "Hooah" may be an appropriate

response to many Army situations, at home we need to try a different route. I encourage every man on post to sign up for this class and learn how to turn their Army-speak and actions into appropriate emotional responses that promote healthy Families.

For our spouses, join Carol Brooks and the FAP staff for a live talk show event "Make the Right Choice: Become a Better You" Oct. 17 at Barlow Theater. From 1 to 4:30 p.m. Carolyn Tolliver-Lee will interview Melissa Divine, a former Kansas State University professor of women's studies who is now a sexual assault prevention and response trainer on post. The pair will talk about the cycle relationships take and what they need to

last. This interactive program also will include a fashion show put on by Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers and visits from Miss Kansas Rodeo, Miss Kansas USA and singer Betti O.

To touch on the spiritual aspect of resiliency, everyone is invited to the annual candlelight vigil at Kapaun Chapel. From 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Oct. 27 as we gather to reflect and remember victims of Family violence.

Beginning with a healthy relationship is important to building lasting bonds. For our single Soldiers, we have an event to highlight what is and isn't healthy in relationships. "Dr. Date" will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 28 at Riley's Conference Center.

For more information about Domestic Violence Prevention Month or the services offered by FAP call 785-239-9435 or visit the staff at ACS, Building 7264 on Custer Hill. For 24-hour domestic violence response, call 785-307-1373.

There's an event this month for everyone. Invite a friend or come alone and meet new friends. Here at Fort Riley we're in it together. Let's encourage each other, learn together and strengthen our Army Families.

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# Commanding general updates Junction City on post's progress

By Shandi Dix  
STAFF WRITER

The Junction City Geary County Military Affairs Council met Sept. 24 at the Geary County Convention Center, and Maj. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, was the guest speaker. Brooks informed those in attendance that units at Fort Riley are busy.

"We are pretty busy," Brooks said. "You stay very busy on Fort Riley; doing our nation's things. Our troops are out there doing great things everyday, making us proud in various parts of the world, our leaders continue to build strong and cohesive teams while also preparing themselves for operations."

Brooks spoke about all five brigades at Fort Riley, the 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Brigade Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Brigade Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade and the 1st Sustainment Brigade. He also spoke about the 3rd Brigade Combat Team's move from Fort Hood, Texas to Fort Knox, Tenn.

Brooks began by speaking about the 1st HBCT's reassignment on Sept. 23.

The last three years the brigade has been training all of the transition teams that have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. "They have been highly successful," Brooks said.

The brigade is back to being a combat team not a training team after the last TT class graduated Sept. 15.

"They are focused on being a fast moving, deadly killing machine heavy brigade combat team," Brooks said. "They are back to their old business of being a fighting unit not a training unit."

The brigade has grown in size from about 800 Soldiers to 2,900 in the last few months. They are expected to grow to 3,500 to 3,700 Soldiers.

The 2nd HBCT, the "Daggers," are on their way home, he said. About 1,000 Soldiers had returned at the time of the MAC breakfast.

"Everyone will be home, we expect, by the end of the first week of October," Brooks said.

An uncasing ceremony is planned for Oct. 22 at the Custer Hill Parade Field.



Shandi Dix | POST

Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commanding general, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley, speaks to community members Sept. 24 during the Junction City Geary County Military Affairs Council breakfast.

The 4th IBCT currently is deployed to Iraq and Kuwait with the majority of the Soldiers in Iraq.

"They are on patrol, shadowing those that have been doing the mission the last 12 to 14 months so that they learn all of the facets of the operations that are important," Brooks said. "Who are the people to be looking for on the street, who

are the key leaders that you will have to meet with, how do you do this, where is that, all these sorts of things."

The troops will work with Iraqi partners in northern Iraq to ensure success and limit the disruptions in the democratic processes during Iraqi national elections.

Brooks said the mission was "very important work for the nation."

The CAB is going through pre-deployment preparations. They have had two deployments with Soldiers attending simultaneous training missions at the Joint Readiness Training Center in Fort Polk, La., and the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Brooks advised those attending that there will be more helicopter activity at night due to progression – preparing the pilots combat duties. They are required to fly at night with night vision goggles under restricted conditions.

"So if you're hearing more helicopters at night," Brooks said. "That's the sound of victory."

Brooks mentioned the new model of the Black Hawk helicopter that was on

display at the Fall Apple Day Festival. The new UH-60M Black Hawk is completely digitized. The only gauge that's not digitized is a compass. It also has an auto-pilot system and is all-weather capable, meaning that the helicopter can land in any conditions.

He spoke briefly about the 1st Sust. Bde., mentioning that it has been working to sustain all units and establishing accountability.

Brooks ended by discussing the division headquarters upcoming deployment to Iraq around January 2010. About 800 people will deploy to take over control from the 34th Infantry Division. They will be in control of nine of the 18 provinces in Iraq.

While Brooks and others are deployed a Mission Support Element will be put into place. The element will be led by Oliver Hunter and a brigadier general who has not yet been announced.

Brooks also touched on the number of Soldiers who will be assigned to Fort Riley in the near future. In 2010 about 10,500 Soldiers are expected at Fort Riley with about 15,000 assigned to the post.

An expected spike to 13,200 Soldiers will occur twice in 2010; once around January and February and again around September and October, depending on deployment cycles.

He mentioned that a dip in the strength on post just occurred with the 4th IBCT deploying and the 2nd HBCT not having fully returned.

A large dip is expected in 2011 down to 7,900. The average strength is expected to rise to 11,000 with 18,000 assigned to Fort Riley. By the end of 2011 an estimated 15,000 Soldiers will be on post with 18,500 to 19,000 Soldiers assigned.

Special guests at the breakfast included Garrison Commander Col. Kevin Brown, Col. John Dvoracek, Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Mann, Chap. (Col.) Gary Norris, 1st Sustainment Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Miguel Rivera, retired Lt. Gen. Richard Sierz, civilian aides to the secretary of the Army: John Montgomery and Mark Edwards, State Representative Barbara Craft, Geary County Commissioner Ben Bennett, Junction City Mayor Terry Heldstab and Clay Center Mayor Sharon Brown.

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